

# TKA Middle School Summer Reading

---

## OVERVIEW:

Middle school students are required to read two books over the summer and complete a book review on each. **Students are assigned one book and can choose another book from the book of choice list that corresponds to the students' grade level.** Please follow the guidelines below for writing the book review. Both book reviews are **due on the first day of the 2018/19 school year.** **Each review (2 total) will be counted as a test grade!** The teacher will grade for content, completion of the instructions outlined below, and grammar/spelling. Please type or neatly write your book reviews so that they can be easily read.

## Required Book:

- 7<sup>th</sup> grade required book: *Where the Red Fern Grows* by Wilson Rawls
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade required book: *The Red Badge of Courage* by Stephen Crane

## Book of Choice:

7<sup>th</sup> Grade:

- *The Witch at Blackbird Pond* by Elizabeth George Speare
- *Around the World in 80 Days* by Jules Verne
- *Captain Courageous* by Rudyard Kipling
- *The Incredible Journey* by Sheila Burnford
- *Maniac Magee* by Jerry Spinelli
- *The Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemingway

8<sup>th</sup> Grade:

- *Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson
- *Swiss Family Robinson* (unabridged version) by Johann D. Wyss
- *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott
- *Johnny Tremain* by Esther Forbes
- *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* by Jules Verne
- *The Call of the Wild* by Jack London

## Writing Project: Book Review

**Directions:** You need to create a book cover and book review for each of the books you read. Follow the directions below. Each paragraph should be 4-6 sentences.

- **Book Cover:** Create a book cover by hand or by computer that depicts what the book is about. Staple it to your book review.

(See Next Page)

- **Paragraph 1:** Identify the book title, author, copyright year, and page number. Be sure to underline or italicize all words in the title. Also, explain the significance of the title in connection with the story. (Why did the author choose the title? What is its deeper meaning?)
- **Paragraph 2:** Summarize the plot of the novel. Include the setting, a description of the main characters, and a quick summary of important events.
- **Paragraph 3:** Main characters are often described as being dynamic because the events in the story bring about a change in the character. Identify what caused a character to change and explain how he/she changed. Use story details as much as possible.
- **Paragraph 4:** Write an evaluation of the book. (What did you enjoy about the book and why? Did the book hold your attention? Why or why not? Did the end of the story surprise you? Why or why not? Would you recommend this book to a friend? Why or why not?)
- **Paragraph 5:** Connect your book to the Bible by explaining how a verse relates to events or characters in the novel. For example, in Charles Dickens's *The Christmas Carol*, Scrooge realizes that having money is not the ultimate purpose of life. Solomon warns in Proverbs 11:4 that "riches do not profit in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death." Dickens uses his story, like Solomon, to remind the reader that greediness will leave us empty at the end of life and that money cannot save us from death or judgment.

**I cannot wait to hear about what you read over the summer!**

**Mrs. Anderson**

